

**TIME FOR BAND**

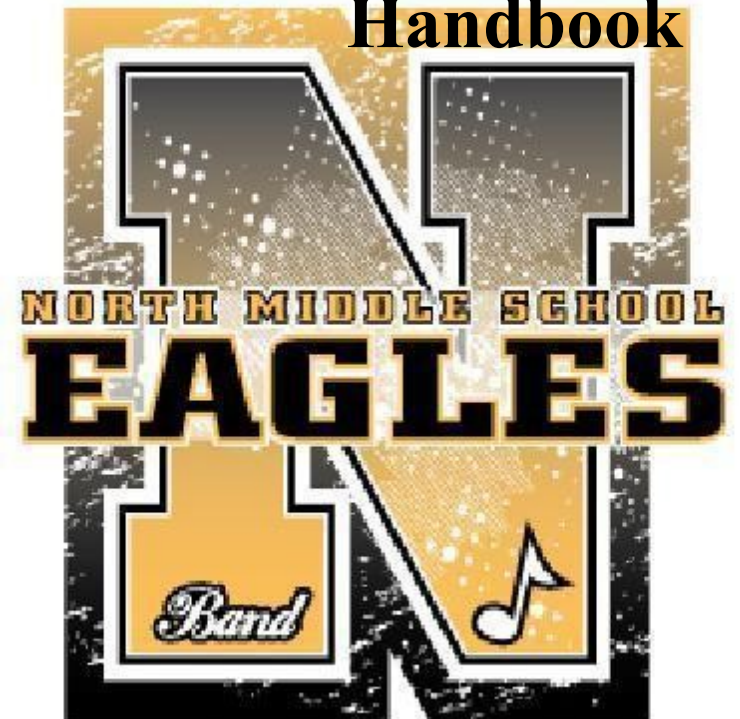


**North Middle School**

**Band**

**Policy**

**Handbook**



**2012-2013**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

***North Middle School Bands***  
**1501 N. Maple Ave**  
**Rapid City, SD 57701**

**Shane Bradford, Director of Bands**

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**Dear Students and Parents,**

On behalf of the North Middle School Bands, I would like to welcome you to the 2012-2013 school year. I am looking forward to a great year of making music at North! The North bands have long been a source of positive student musical experiences. You are now a part of that continuing tradition. This tradition of excellence has been the result of hard work by teachers, administrators, parents, and mostly the students. I hope this year will be the North Middle School Band's best ever.

A primary element of success in any music program is communication. I will do my best to keep you informed of all of the band's performances and events, as well as your child's individual progress and what they can do to improve. Specific information about our classroom and music events can be found in this handbook. I hope you will feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns. Our classroom is open and you are welcome to join us. If you play, feel free to bring your instrument and join us on occasion! We have many new opportunities available this year. Most importantly, I hope to see you at your child's performances!

***Parental support is the most important factor in the success of any band student.***

**POLICIES**

Daily lessons and assignments will be posted on:

The board every day as well as on-line at

- Eagle Homework on North Middle Web Site
- [nmsbands.wikispaces.com](http://nmsbands.wikispaces.com)

Grades are based on our curriculum:

***Class Participation (50%)*** = 5 points compiled daily for the following: instrument, music, pencil, class participation, respect for others.

***Written Assignments (15%)*** = Written assignments.

***Practice Points (10%)*** = turned in weekly on **FIRST** day of the week  
***Performances\* (25%)*** = Winter-, ESYB-, and Spring-Concerts, Solo & Ensemble Festival (Dates to be set – see calendar)

***\*Missed performance*** = possible of 75% of performance grade available by doing a four page music report. You will have 5 school days to complete and submit the report.

**CLASSROOM RULES**

1. Arrive on time. (Entering the classroom after the bell rings, and/or not having your instrument ready to play within two (2) minutes of the bell will be recorded as a tardy to the office.)
2. Do not play until we play together. When I take the podium, talking and individual playing comes to an end.
3. Respect others and their belongings.
4. Gum, food or pop in the band room only on special occasions.
5. Raise your hand with appropriate input
6. Students are to play **ONLY** their instrument. Do not touch another person's instrument. They are expensive and can be damaged easily. No one except drummers enrolled in North Middle School Band are allowed to play percussion instruments.

## MATERIALS

- \*Instrument and music in good playing condition
- \*Mouthpiece (with reeds for woodwinds)
- \*Pencil (NO pens, sharpees, or markers)
- \*Valve oil, slide or cork grease, cleaning rod & cloth, cleaning swab, spray bottle (trombone only),
- \*Marked sticks and mallets (initials-percussion). NO JUNK STICKS!-)

## BOOKS

**6th Grade** – Standard of Excellence Enhanced Volume 1 (same as last year – you should already have it) and Volume 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester).

**7th Grade** – Standard of Excellence Enhanced Volume 2, Hal Leonard Intermediate (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)

**8th Grade** – Hal Leonard Advanced (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)

All of the above should be available from Haggerty's Musicworks or Batchelder's Music.

## PROCEDURES

- \*Enter the room respectfully and ready to begin – music may be playing for you to listen and respond.
- \*Be in place with ALL supplies when we *begin two minutes* after the bell rings (*Instrument, Music, Pencil, Mouthpiece, Reeds & Ligature [Clarinet, Saxophone], Cork Grease, Valve Oil, Spray Bottle(Tbn)*)
- \*Store cases properly before, during and after class  
(*Fl., Cl., Ob., Sax, Tpt., under chair; Bs. Cl., Tbn, Eup., Tba., on shelf*)

\*Down time will be determined by the quality of your work

\*Class is dismissed by the teacher, not the bell or the clock – do not disassemble or put up your instrument until instructed

## FUNDRAISERS

Students are responsible for the delivery and payment of the fundraising product. All payment or unsold product MUST be returned by set deadlines. All fundraising directly benefits the bands.

## Important Dates

Beginning Band Show Sept. 11th beginning at 6 PM in Beadle's Band Gym  
**September 11** 6PM General Beadle Elementary School  
(*only for people wanting to purchase or rent new instruments*)

**Oct. 11** 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade School Performance

Cafeteria 2:30-3:00 PM

**Dec. 1** – All State Auditions Due

(*7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*)

**December 17** 6:30 PM North Middle School Gym  
(*6th Annual All School Concert – 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grades*)

**February 22** 3:30 -6:30 PM SouthWest Middle School  
(*Solo and Ensemble Festival – 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grades*)

**March 1-2** Middle School All State Band **All Day**  
Pierre (?) *By audition only. Ignore if you didn't make it.*

**April 26** TBA Rushmore Plaza Civic Center  
(*All City Young Bands Rehearsal – Schedule TBA*)

**April 27** TBA Rushmore Plaza Civic Center  
(*All City Young Bands Rehearsal and Concert*) TBA

**May 6** 6:30 PM Spring Concert

**May TBA** (6<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade tour and Spring Band concert)

## Performance Etiquette

### Concert Attire

Performers should be dressed appropriately any time the North Middle School bands appear in performance. Being a part of a musical performance group offers audience members the chance to experience a positive cultural event. It is much like being a member of any organized group; people are coming to see and hear you perform. Being coordinated will help you better represent your organization.

### **Guidelines for concert appearance** are as follows:

All performers will wear their current band shirt, nice jeans or slacks, and nice shoes. Keep your shirt in as close to new condition as possible for the entire year. It represents our group and we are not interested in your ability to design or alter clothing. Band Shirts will be ordered after our fall fundraiser.

### **Concert Behavior and Expectations**

The moment you arrive at the site of the performance, you are representing North Middle School and its band program, whether at North itself, or in another facility. Good performances begin with concentrated preparation prior to the event, culminating the day of the event. Students will be expected to be on their best behavior at any band activity. Consequences for inappropriate behavior range from deduction of points to removal from the activity.

### **Audience Etiquette**

Students will frequently be members of an audience as part of our performances, or at other events throughout the year. It is very important to show respect to performing students or visiting performers. Leaving during a performance is discouraging to the performers.

Talking, texting, and socializing *during* a performance are NOT appropriate. Applause for conductors as they walk on stage is appropriate, as well as during jazz performances after solos. The key to proper etiquette is to treat all performers with the same amount of respect you wish to receive.

## **Additional Information**

### **Instrument Storage**

North Band provides specific storage space for each type of instrument. Students not properly storing instrument, will lose points. We cannot be responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen instruments.

### **Instrument Labels**

Many of our students have similar instruments and cases. Occasionally a student will take the wrong instrument home by mistake. In order to avoid this confusion, students must mark their instruments clearly with a tag or label. Percussionists should label sticks.

*North will not be responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen instruments.*

### **Instrumentation**

At the beginning of each year we will begin balancing the instrumentation of each band. Many times elementary students begin on one of the smaller and more common instruments. At the middle school level we begin to expand instrumentation to fit our needs and the future needs of the high school band program. In most cases switches are made from large sections in the band into sections that are smaller and more unique. *In almost every situation, the suggestion to make a switch results in a higher degree of success for the student and the band.*

### **\*Percussion Student Requirements**

All percussion students are required to purchase Vic Firth SD1 General sticks for snare drum. In addition students must purchase the following books for lessons and playing test material:

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Only:** The Rudimental Cookbook by Edward Freytag

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>:** Fundamental Studies for Mallets by Garwood Whaley

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only:** Musical Studies for the Intermediate Snare Drummer by Garwood Whaley

### **Jazz Band**

All band members are eligible to participate in the Middle School Jazz Band. Each member will be required to purchase the Essential Elements for Jazz Ensemble book by Mike Steinel for rehearsals, performance, and practice at home. If you play an instrument that is not traditionally a jazz instrument, you will be offered the option to learn a secondary instrument. Jazz band is an elective and will be offered before school on **Thursdays from 7:15 to 7:55 AM.**

### **Extra Credit Group Lessons**

Optional group lessons will be scheduled once every two weeks starting at 7:30 AM. Lessons help to improve technical skills, allow time to get to know the student, monitor individual progress, extend motivational challenges, and examine instrument mechanical problems. I recommend that students mark their lesson times in their student planners so that they do not forget, as it will be their responsibility to make it to the lesson. If a student misses a lesson, they must talk to a director within a week of that missed lesson to schedule a make-up lesson, in which they have the opportunity to receive full credit. If the student does not speak with a director within a week of the missed lesson, the student will no longer have the opportunity to make up the lesson and they will receive no credit.

## **Practice**

Just as students must do homework to be successful in their other academic classes, students must practice at home to be successful in band. It is better to practice 15 minutes every night than to practice once for 90 minutes on one night. The development of muscle memory leads to cleaner and more mature playing.

## **Supplies**

Band supplies such as reeds, cork grease, and valve oil should be available at the Eagle Cash Store. Students will be required to purchase these items on their own at a music store or elsewhere. Woodwind students should have at least three reeds on hand at all times, as well as cork grease and a cleaning swab. Brass students should have their own valve oil and/or slide grease on hand.

## **Solo and Ensemble Festival**

North Middle School attends a solo and ensemble festival with the other middle schools in Rapid City. We bring in respected music educators to adjudicate our performers. Students will select solos or ensemble music from approved repertoire. There will be considerable time for the students to learn the music once they receive it. Students will prepare their music and be asked to pass a check-off three to four weeks prior to the contest. This check-off will determine if the student will be able to perform their piece successfully at the contest.

Students who are not able to check-off their solos for the band director *will not* be allowed to play at the contest. Our goal is for every student to play at contest. We do however want to avoid the embarrassment and frustration of a poorly played solo or ensemble piece.

North will provide accompanists for students playing solos. Because our budget and time for accompanists is limited, students must make every effort to get together with their accompanist at the times scheduled by the directors. Music will be selected in September or October. Students will NOT be required to purchase their solo music, but may do so.

## **Missed Performances**

Band is a team effort and everybody is valuable and depended upon. Our performances provide instant feedback and assessment to the students' preparations. As these cannot be done more than once, it is vital that all students participate and very important that they have full

support in the audience. If, however, something happens, a report may be composed in place of the performance. A perfectly written report will be valued at 75% of the actual performance grade. The report is very detailed and challenging. Therefore, it is paramount that you attempt to attend our 4 performances for full credit.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand

everything in the North Middle School Band Policy Handbook. I understand that for our band to reach its highest potential, I must set individual goals for myself and strive to achieve those goals.

Ultimately, I am responsible for myself and my actions. At no time, will I blame my parents, family or friends for forgetting my instrument, music, or supplies.

I also agree to play only my instrument. If it is a school instrument, I understand that I am responsible for any damage that happens and I agree to pay for the repair of the damage or replacement of the instrument. If it is a private instrument, I understand the same applies. As an adult in charge of these middle school children, I agree to help them at home to the best of my abilities (even if it is just to give them a safe place to practice and store their instrument). I also agree to not be frugal when purchasing an instrument – realizing that, as with anything in life, you only get what you put into something. (It is better to buy once and cry once.)

I accept these rules and policies as golden and will never stray from following them inside or out of the band room.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature and date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature and date